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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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ACKNOWLEDGING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND SACRIFICES OF THE YOUNG MEN OF HAWAII, HUI PANALA'AU, WHO SERVED AS COLONISTS ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE FEDERAL OCCUPATION OF THE ISLANDS OF HOWLAND, BAKER, JARVIS, CANTON, AND ENDERBURY FROM 1935 THROUGH 1942, FACILITATING THE UNITED STATES CLAIM OF JURISDICTION OVER SUCH ISLANDS.

1 WHEREAS, in the 1930's, military and commercial interest in  
2 Central Pacific air routes between Australia, California, and  
3 Hawaii led to a desire by the United States to claim the islands  
4 of Howland, Baker, and Jarvis, although the ownership of such  
5 islands was unclear; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, in 1935, a secret Department of Commerce  
8 colonization plan was instituted, aimed at placing citizens of  
9 the United States as colonists of the islands of Howland, Baker  
10 and Jarvis; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, to avoid conflicts with international law, which  
13 prevented colonization by active military personnel, the United  
14 States sought the participation of furloughed military personnel  
15 and Native Hawaiian civilians for the colonization project; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, William T. Miller, Superintendent of Airways at  
18 the Department of Commerce, was appointed to lead the  
19 colonization project, traveled to Hawaii in February 1935, met  
20 with Albert F. Judd, Trustee of Kamehameha Schools and the  
21 Bishop Museum, and agreed that recent graduates and current  
22 students of Kamehameha School for Boys would make ideal  
23 colonists; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, the ideal Hawaiian candidates were young men who  
26 could "fish in the native manner, swim excellently, handle a  
27 boat, be disciplined, friendly and unattached," and where as



1 many of such young men were also part of the ROTC program and  
2 readily took to military protocol and procedures; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, on March 30, 1935, the United States Coast Guard  
5 Cutter Itsasca departed from Honolulu Harbor in secrecy with six  
6 young Native Hawaiians aboard, all recent graduates of  
7 Kamehameha School for Boys, and 12 furloughed army personnel,  
8 whose purpose was to occupy the island of Howland, Baker, and  
9 Jarvis in teams of five for three months, and record weather  
10 conditions, cultivate plants, maintain a daily log, record the  
11 types of fish that were caught, observe bird life, and collect  
12 specimens for the Bishop Museum; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, in June 1935, after a successful first tour, the  
15 furloughed army personnel were ordered off the islands and  
16 replaced with additional Kamehameha Schools alumni, leaving the  
17 islands under the exclusive occupation of four Native Hawaiians  
18 on each island; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, the successful year-long occupation by the  
21 colonists directly enabled President Franklin D. Roosevelt to  
22 issue Executive Order 7368 on May 13, 1938, which proclaimed  
23 that the islands of Howland, Baker, and Jarvis were under the  
24 jurisdiction of the United States; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, while multiple Federal agencies vied for the right  
27 to administer the colonization project, it was granted to the  
28 Department of the Interior, where the colonization project  
29 emphasized weather data and radio communication, which brought  
30 about the recruitment of a number of Asian radiomen and  
31 aerologists, as well as expanding recruitment of Hawaiians  
32 beyond Kamehameha School for Boys to include Hawaiians and non-  
33 Hawaiians from other schools in Hawaii; and  
34

35 WHEREAS, on December 8, 1941, Howland Island was attacked  
36 by a fleet of Japanese twin-engine bombers, and such attack  
37 killed Hawaiian colonists Joseph Keliihanuui and Richard  
38 Whaley; in the weeks to follow, Japanese submarine and military  
39 aircraft continued to target the islands of Howland, Baker, and  
40 Jarvis, jeopardizing the lives of the remaining colonists; and  
41



1 WHEREAS, the United States Government was unaware of the  
2 attacks on such islands, and was distracted by the entry of the  
3 United States into World War II, which delayed the retrieval of  
4 the colonists, and on January 31, 1941, four colonists from  
5 Baker and the two remaining colonists from Howland were rescued;  
6 it took until February 9, 1942, to rescue the remaining eight  
7 colonist from Jarvis; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, during the seven years of colonization, more than  
10 130 young men participated in the project, the majority whom  
11 were Hawaiian, and all of whom made numerous sacrifices, endured  
12 hardships and risked their lives to secure and maintain the  
13 islands of Howland, Baker, Jarvis, Canton, and Enderbury on  
14 behalf of the United States, and three young Hawaiian men made  
15 the ultimate sacrifice; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, none of the islands, except for Canton were ever  
18 used for commercial aviation, but the islands were used for  
19 military purposes; in July 1943, a military base was established  
20 on Baker Island, and its forces, which numbered over 2,000  
21 members, participated in the Tarawa-Makin operation; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, in 1956, participants of the colonization project  
24 established an organization called "Hui Panala'au," which  
25 translates to "society of colonists," or "club of settlers,"  
26 which was established to preserve the group's fellowship, to  
27 provide scholarship assistance, and "to honor and esteem those  
28 who died as colonists of the Equatorial Islands"; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, in 1979, Canton and Enderbury became part of the  
31 Republic of Kiribati, but the islands of Howland, Baker, and  
32 Jarvis still remain possessions of the United States, having  
33 been designated as National Wildlife Refuges in 1974; and

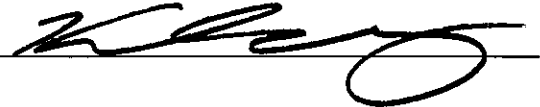
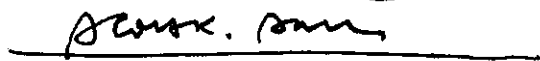
34  
35 WHEREAS, March 30, 2015, marks 80 years to the day that the  
36 very first group of Hui Panala'au colonists departed Honolulu  
37 Harbor for the Equatorial Islands, and May 13, 2015, marks the  
38 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive  
39 Order proclaiming United States jurisdiction over the islands of  
40 Howland, Baker, and Jarvis that remain possessions of the United  
41 States; and



1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has never fully recognized the  
2 accomplishments, contributions, and sacrifices of the colonists,  
3 three of whom are still alive today and in their 90s; now,  
4 therefore,

5  
6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
7 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
8 Session of 2015, that this body acknowledges the accomplishments  
9 and sacrifices of the Hui Panala'au colonists and extends  
10 appreciation, acknowledges the international significance of the  
11 seven-year colonization project which resulted in the United  
12 States extending sovereignty into the Equatorial Pacific, and  
13 recognizes and commends the accomplishments, sacrifices, and  
14 contributions of the more than 130 young men, the majority of  
15 whom were Native Hawaiians, who participated in the Equatorial  
16 Pacific colonization project.

17  
18  
19 OFFERED BY:

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